

## Message Text

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63  
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011  
DRAFTED BY:M/CT:RPMYERS:NWH

APPROVED BY:M/CT:AMB. HECK

S/S-O:AWOTTO

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O 232308Z SEP 76  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 236753

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 7643 ACTION SECSTATE INFO DAMASCUS 23 SEP 76

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7643

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CY, LE, US, ASEC

SUBJECT: TERRORISM: LEBANESE GROUP DEMANDS FOR HOSTAGE RELEASE

REF: (A) NICOSIA 2946, (B) DEPARTMENT TELEXCON ITEM 16

1. OUR REACTION ON RECEIVING REFTEL A WAS THAT IT WAS A HOAX, PERPETRATED BY SOMEONE WHO IS MENTALLY ILL, FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. WE WERE AND ARE UNAWARE OF ANY AMERICANS MISSING IN LEBANON OR ELSEWHERE AND COULD NOT BELIEVE THAT 29 AMCITS AND 18 CITIZENS OF WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES COULD HAVE BEEN KIDNAPED HERE OR ELSEWHERE AND BE HELD HOSTAGE IN LEFTIST-CONTROLLED LEBANON WITHOUT THIS INFORMATION BECOMING KNOWN TO US. WE HAVE NOT, OF COURSE, CHECKED CONFIDENTIAL

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WHEREABOUTS OF EVERY AMERICAN CITIZEN STILL IN LEBANON, BUT

ALLEGED NUMBERS OF HOSTAGES INVOLVED SEEM TO US TO  
MAKE THIS STORY INCREDIBLE.

B. RANSOM DEMANDED IS AN UNUSUAL AMOUNT WHICH  
SEEMS TO HAVE NO RELATION TO NUMBER OF HOSTAGES OR ANY  
RATIONAL EXPLANATION.

C. ASSERTION THAT HOSTAGES ARE BEING HELD IN THREE  
DIFFERENT PLACES IN LEFTIST-HELD TERRITORY IN LEBANON  
WHILE CONTACT WITH "JANE" AND PRESUMABLY MONEY TRANSFER  
IS TO TAKE PLACE IN EAST BEIRUT IMPLIES AN OPERATIONAL  
CAPABILITY WHICH IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE IN  
LEBANON TODAY. EVEN A MAJOR EXTREMIST CHRISTIAN,  
MUSLIM OR FEDAYEEN GROUP (WHICH WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS  
IS) WOULD BE STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT FOR OPERATIONAL  
ASSETS TO CARRY OUT SUCH AN OPERATION.

D. ALTHOUGH LETTER SAYS DEMAND IS TO BE RESPONDED  
TO WITHIN 48 HOURS OF ITS DELIVERY AT EMBASSY NICOSIA,  
SENDER COULD NOT KNOW WITH ANY DEGREE OF PRECISION  
EXACT TIME LETTER RECEIVED. IF DEMAND WERE SERIOUS,  
PERPETRATOR WOULD PRESUMABLY HAVE SET A PRECISE DATE  
(SEE PARA 4 BELOW).

2. IF THERE IS A POLITICAL INTENT IN THIS LETTER, IT  
MAY BE TO DAMAGE THE CHRISTIAN CAUSE. USE OF FRENCH  
TENDS TO INDICATE CHRISTIAN AUTHORSHIP AND JOUNIEH  
RETURN ADDRESS ON ENVELOPE, NEWSPAPERS TO BE USED, AND  
LOCATION OF JANE'S TELEPHONE CONTACT ARE ALL ASSOCIATED  
WITH CHRISTIAN-HELD LEBANON. ALLEGED PLACE OF  
DETENTION OF HOSTAGES, HOWEVER, IS OUTSIDE OF  
CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED TERRITORY, THUS PREVENTING  
INVESTIGATION BY CHRISTIAN AUTHORITIES.

3. FOR REASONS OUTLINED ABOVE WE ARE STILL INCLINED  
TO BELIEVE LETTER IS A MACABRE HOAX. HOWEVER, WE DID NOT  
RECOGNIZE SIGNIFICANCE OF MILFENHALL AND STROMFJORD  
AND DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE TO  
US.

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4. WE HAVE JUST COME ACROSS ADVERTISEMENT FOR HAWANA  
TRAVEL AND TOURISM (EX-EAGLE) IN SEP 14 L'ORIENT-LE  
JOUR. HAWANA OFFERS FULL RANGE OF TRAVEL AGENCY  
SERVICES INCLUDING "DAILY POSTAL COURIER, TELEX AND  
TELEGRAPH SERVICE." ADDRESS IS JOUNIEH, PLACE  
CENTRALE, IMM. CHIHA, TEL 930845-934692; BYBLOS -  
RUE MAR YOUDHANNA - IMM AKRA. HAWANA'S SLOGAN IS  
"TOUJOURS EN AVANT" (ALWAYS AHEAD). HAWANA IS

APPARENTLY ONE OF THE MANY TRAVEL AGENCIES FACILITATING  
COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN CYPRUS AND  
CHRISTIAN-HELD LEBANON.

LANE  
UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CHRISTIANS, TERRORISTS, ALLEGATIONS, HOSTAGES, PRISONERS RELEASE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE236753  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** M/CT:RPMYERS:NWH  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760360-0178  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760926/aaaaavuj.tel  
**Line Count:** 120  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 76 NICOSIA 2946  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <22 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TERRORISM: LEBANESE GROUP DEMANDS FOR HOSTAGE RELEASE  
**TAGS:** PINS, ASEC, CY, LE, US  
**To:** NICOSIA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006